

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are in this application. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to define the catalyst as a zeolite-like catalyst. Claims 12-18 have been withdrawn.

According to the Examiner claims 1-4 are rejected as being anticipated by US patent 6,437,191 to Choudhary et al. This is respectfully traversed.

US patent 6,437,191 discloses a multi-step method for preparing a solid catalyst comprising a metal halide particularly indium halide, zinc chloride, gallium chloride and iron chloride. The catalyst claimed in this application is prepared using a hydrogen halide or halogen gas. This is illustrated, for example, on page 7, lines 20-21 and examples 1-22. The claimed catalyst is a partially halogenated metal oxide which is not disclosed in the cited patent.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

According to the Examiner claims 1-4 are rejected as being anticipated by US patent 6,383,966 to Han et al. This is respectfully traversed.

US patent 6,383,966 discloses the synthesis of titanium containing catalysis which involves metal halide. The use of halogen is optional in the solvent system. The catalyst is treated with water to remove residual halide (see column 5, lines 30-39). The residual halide is present in

a very small amount (about 5000 ppm) (see column 6, lines 23-31). The disclosure of this patent cannot lead to the claimed invention which relates to a method for obtaining solid partially halogenated metal oxide catalyst where the concentration of halogen in the catalyst is in the range from 0.01 wt. % to 50 wt.% which cannot be considered to be a residual amount.

Therefore, as each element of claims 1-4 is not disclosed in the reference, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

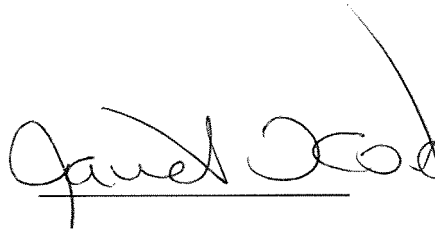
According to the Examiner claims 1-11 are rejected as being anticipated by US patent 6,459,000 to Choudhary et al. This is respectfully traversed.

The cited reference discloses that the catalyst is pretreated by contacting the solid catalyst with hydrogen halide to activate the catalyst. However, this patent does not disclose nor provide any guidance that halogen is present as an active constituent in the solid catalyst. As discussed above, the concentration of halogen in the catalyst is in the range from 0.01 wt. % to 50 wt %.

Therefore, as all elements of the claims are not disclosed in this reference, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

It is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Cord", is written over a horizontal line. A long, sweeping flourish extends from the end of the signature upwards and to the right.

JANET I. CORD

LADAS & PARRY

26 WEST 61ST STREET

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10023

REG. NO.33778 (212)708-1935